

From: Hetrick, Brian
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:33pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft settlement not in the public interest

I am Brian Hetrick, a resident of Manchester, New Hampshire. I am employed as a software engineer and have been continuously so employed for over twenty years. I believe the proposed settlement in United States v. Microsoft is not in the public interest.

Microsoft's history of predatory anti-competitive behavior is long established, and seems to be a fundamental corporate philosophy. Microsoft has routinely used its position in one area of the computer market to force entry into and dominance in other areas of the computer market. This practice of leveraging demand for one product into demand for other unrelated products has been a keystone of Microsoft's corporate strategy and behavior. I believe the only remedy for this predatory anti-competitive strategy is to break Microsoft up into a minimum of three separate companies -- operating system, office products, and consumer products -- to forbid collusion or "strategic cooperation" between these resultant companies, and to forbid these resultant companies from producing products in the areas assigned to the other companies.

This arrangement would make the successes of Microsoft in one area independent from successes in other areas, and would permit competition within each of the product lines. Without a back-door mechanism to get special functionality into Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office -- to pick only one example -- would have to compete on a level playing field with competitors. It would no longer be able to offer functionality unavailable to competing office suites. With Microsoft Office expanding its customer base by supporting the two highest volume platforms -- Windows and Linux on Intel -- Microsoft Windows would no longer be able to depend on demand for Office resulting in demand for Windows. Microsoft would be deprived of the major technique by which it has established a predatory stranglehold on the entire PC software market.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Brian Hetrick

CC: Brian Hetrick (E-mail)